

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 33 are presented for examination in the present application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants submit herewith a replacement specification in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.125. Thus, the replacement specification includes both a marked-up version and a clean version attached hereto. No new matter has been added. The abstract of the disclosure has been amended in accordance with MPEP 608.01(b).

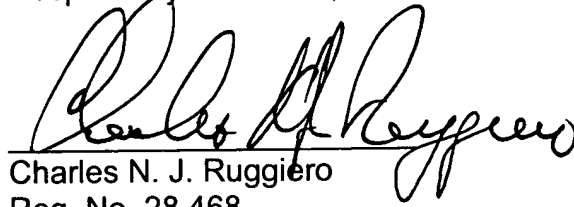
Claims 1 through 33 have been amended to include the transitional phrase “comprising” and “wherein” as appropriate, to remove multiple dependencies, to provide proper verb tense to all claims, and to provide proper antecedent basis to each claim element. It is believed that these claim amendments merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims and, thus, should not affect the scope of equivalents to which the claims are entitled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 28 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

Charles N. J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

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